The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 20, 1912, at the Post-Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 13, NO. 32. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1923. WHOLE NO. 655.

## PENNSYLVANIA EMPLOYE REPRESENTATION

The publicity bureau of the anti-union Pennsylvania Railroad system continues to belch forth reams of material praising the "democracy" and the "Americanism" of that employer-conceived and notoriously autocratic form of company unionism known as the "Pennsylvania plan of employe representation."

The editorial and feature writers of the anti-union press dish up with flaring and suggestive heads the Pennsylvania's dope, label the plan with eye-catchers such as "a square deal for labor," "industrial peace," "democratic representation," "industrial democracy," and feed the stuff out for the misinformation of the public.

None of these labels can truthfully be applied to the anti-union Pennsylvania railroad's anti-union employe representation.

**Pennsylvania railroad employe representation is not a square deal for labor. It is not industrial peace. It is not democratic. It is the reverse of every one of these principles. Moreover, it is essentially and fundamentally hostile to trade unionism and the rights of the workers and opposed to our fundamental institutions of freedom.**

When the management of the Pennsylvania Railroad System inaugurated its employe representation plan in 1921 the Federated Shop Crafts and the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employes asked that the names of their organizations be placed on the ballots for the election of employe representatives.

The Pennsylvania management refused to do this, and issued its own ballots. The Federated Shop Crafts likewise issued its ballot. The Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks did not issue a ballot, but the members wrote the name of the organization on the official company ballots.

An overwhelming majority of the eligible employes voted for the shop crafts and the clerks' brotherhood. The Pennsylvania management declared these ballots invalid and recognized as employe representatives the men who were elected by a minority proven originally to amount to about 10 per cent of the classes of employes concerned.

Honest and democratic employe representation carries with it the right of organized employes through majority action to select their own representatives to negotiate with railroad managements agreements covering wages and working conditions. This right is so plain, simple, and indisputable, so thoroughly expressive of democratic institutions, that it requires no argument.

Even the employer and public members of the United States Railroad Labor Board, joined with the labor members in a unanimous decision charging the Pennsylvania railroad management with denying to its shop employes "essential rights as laboring men."

The transportation act itself provides that each class of railroad employes shall enjoy the right of selecting the representative of such class. Despite this, counsel for the Pennsylvania railroad made this statement in one of the hearings before the railroad labor board:

**"We claimed the right to deal with our employes either through a majority or minority representation."**

Majority representation is fundamental throughout the United States constitution and runs through the laws and institutions of our country. But the management of the Pennsylvania railroad arrogates to itself the privilege of treating majority representation with contempt.

The sophistry of the position taken by the Pennsylvania management is significant. It did not question the right of the shop crafts and the clerks' brotherhood to choose their own representatives, but it prevented the exercise of this right. Although professing loyalty to the principle of employe representation, it devised and applied a system which throttled the majority and established the representation of a small minority, subservient to the Pennsylvania management.

That the Pennsylvania management resorted to coercion to make the railroad workers accept the minority employe representation can not be disputed.

It is maintained that the Pennsylvania management recalled furloughed men and gave them the option of signing the new regulations or facing discharge.

It is authoritatively stated that a number of furloughed officials of System Federation No. 90, American Federation of Labor, doing work for the Federation while on furlough, were recalled by Pennsylvania officials and discharged when they refused to cease their union activities.

Indisputable testimony affirms that Pennsylvania employes who insisted upon the right of majority representation were harassed by Pennsylvania officials and "coerced into an attitude of silent submission or discharge from the service."

**On September 21, 1921, in an address explaining the same plan of Pennsylvania employe representation to the annual convention of the Delaware bankers' association, Elisha Lee, vice president of the Pennsylvania railroad, declared:**

**"It is no secret that in the past the Pennsylvania railroad * * * always refused to have any official relations with organizations embraced in the American Federation of Labor. * * * The fight which we on the Pennsylvania railroad are carrying on today is largely a fight against domination and virtual management of our employe relationships by the American Federation of Labor."**

Moreover, the anti-union policy of the Pennsylvania management was frankly admitted in one of the labor board hearings dealing with discrimination against members of the clerks' brotherhood. A vice president of the Pennsylvania was asked this question:

**"Simply drawing this distinction, that, if they will agree to deal with you as individuals, you will deal with them; but, if they deal with you as officials representing employes' organizations, you will not deal with them?"**

**The vice president answered: "You have stated it correctly."**

The Pennsylvania management, however, does not hesitate to deal with the representatives of company unions organized by the management to oppose bona fide trade unions.

The management refused to deal with the representatives of the maintenance of way brotherhood the same as it refused to deal with the clerks. But it fostered an opposition organization called the Pennsylvania System Fraternity and made an agreement with the fraternity which is executed for the fraternity by its general chairman, officially and not individually.

This demonstrates again the purpose of the Pennsylvania management to destroy those unions which give evidence of being the chosen representatives of a majority of the employes, even though the management turns right around and deals with its company-sponsored organization in identically the same manner in which it refused to deal with the bona fide union.

The Pennsylvania railroad plan of employe representation was admittedly conceived to bring about the destruction of bona fide trade unionism throughout the Pennsylvania system.

As it was in the beginning, so it is today.

It is undemocratic. It is un-American. It strikes at the vitals of those fundamental free institutions which the United States of America established as the light of the world and the guaranty of liberty under law.

## MAHON EXPOSES MITTENISM

The Mitten employe representation and cooperative profit sharing plan of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit company is absolutely hostile to trade union collective bargaining and seeks to destroy trade unionism itself.

This is the vigorous indictment of "Mittenism," which President Mahon of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes of America presented to the 1923 convention of the association.

The Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company is controlled by Thomas E. Mitten, chairman of the board of directors.

Mitten inaugurated his plan some 12 years ago, when the transit company was near bankruptcy, a number of years having passed without dividends on the $30,000,000 of stock, much of which was recognized by financial experts as being "water."

Mitten's problem was to put the stock, water and all, on a dividend basis.

Dependent and subservient employes were essential for his policy.

Trade unionism stood in his way.

Trade union officials, drawing their salaries from the trade union pay roll, are not dependent upon the employer for a living; consequently they are persistent and fearless in standing for the rights of the workers.

But company employee representation officials, tied to the company payroll for a living, are quite naturally less independent than "outside" trade union officials.

Mitten knew this. And Mittenism, like every other anti-union employee representation system, started out to undermine trade unionism by the establishment of a softly phrased "substitute" sweetened in its appearance by the label "cooperation."

President Mahon sensed the anti-unionism of Mittenism from the first. He knows it. Here is what he says about it:

**"The Mitten plan is one controlled absolutely by the company. It does away with collective bargaining, forming committees of officers who call themselves employes and, in a sense, are employes, who handle the affairs of the cooperative plan.**

"The men of Philadelphia expected last year that, from the dividends of the company and the stock they claimed to control by the cooperative society, they would get something. But Mr. Mitten in his report criticized that view and pointed out to them that that was not to be expected. This year, when under his plan wages were to be increased, Mitten took what should have been the increased wages to, in part, pay off the debt for stocks and bonds in the railroads in behalf of the cooperative plan.

**"Mittenism is an attack upon collective bargaining.**

**"It is a proposition that would deprive street railway men of the opportunity to discuss what their wages should be or the conditions of their employment.**

**"It was a direct attack, as we saw it, upon the trade union."**

According to officials of the Amalgamated Association the Mitten interests precipitated the Buffalo street railway strike of 1922 for the purpose of destroying the Amalgamated Association in Buffalo in order that Mittenism might be established on its corpse. Then the Mittenizers would march on to Mittenize Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Chicago.

Here is the way President Mahon sizes up the Buffalo condition and the way the Amalgamated met it:

"When the Buffalo situation came about, we agreed that it had to be a fight to a finish if we were to preserve the Amalgamated Association against the tactics of Mittenism.

"We put on the armor and went into the battle in Buffalo, and every dollar that we could rake and scrape was brought together.

**"I have been advised that the Mitten people have declared they will get me.**

**"For thirty years they have been trying to get me, and I say to those who carry the messages today, carry this message back to them: They will never get me as long as I live."**

## Company Union Bosses Rule With Iron Hand

Indianapolis, Ind., Oct. 27.—"The men who belong to the scab stone cutters' union in the Indiana belt district were having their troubles when I was there," declares President Mitchell of the Journeymen Stone Cutters' Association of North America, in a report in the Stone Cutters' Journal, the official organ of the association.

"The bosses had ordered them all to pay up in the bosses' union or quit. The bosses seem to be in favor of the check-off system to get their tools bunched, so they can give account of them in cash.

"The employer has the club in his hands over those fellows.

"All he has to say is, Pay your dues or no work, and they get out and kick to beat the band among themselves and swear what they are going to do.

"But they are right there at the meeting the night the employers tell them to be.

"They step right up to the captain's desk and pay their dues like good little boys, and go to work in the morning blessing their kind employer for past favors and present ones."

## Appointed Judges Enemies of the People; Election Cure for Injunction Abuse

Election of judges by popular vote is the remedy for those un-American institutions known as injunction judges and injunctions in labor disputes, according to a ringing declaration by the 1923 convention of the Illinois state federation of labor.

"Since the dawn of civilization the most effective enemies of progress, on the part of the masses of the people, have been the appointed judges," declares the convention.

"The judge was appointed by the king, and he served the influences who made and kept him, the king.

"He manipulated the arrest and imprisonment of individuals sought to be gotten out of the way, delayed trials, misapplied and misinterpreted laws to suit the wishes and interests of those who gave him his appointment, and permitted him to remain in that position.

**'Wherever constitutional governments were set up it was the encroachment upon that constitution by the appointed judge which destroyed it, and with it destroyed the constitutional form of government as well.**

pointment of these judges, and the judges who secure their position by this process now are, if anything, more responsive to the desires of those interests than they were in the early days of human history."

Referring to the injunction in the railroad shopmen's strike issued by federal District Judge Wilkerson, at the request of Attorney General Daugherty, the convention declaration says:

"It is doubtful if there is a specific act in the history of the whole human race where a judge so abjectly surrendered himself, and the power and influence of his position, to serve such interests, by taking away the inherent rights and liberties and constitutional guaranties of so large a section of the population, as was evidenced by the injunction made permanent by the United States federal district court against the striking railroad shopmen.

"Until this institution of appointed judges is abolished, or the powers of these judges are restricted, there are no rights or liberties of the people that are safe.

**"Until this institution of appointed judges is abolished, or the powers of these judges are restricted, there are no rights or liberties of the people that are safe.**

**"If we are to have a democracy in government in any real sense, the appointment of judges must be abandoned and provisions made for them being elected by the people,"** only for those who will refuse to issue injunctions in labor disputes, and if in voting for executive officers who have the power to appoint judges we will vote only for executive officers who will refuse to appoint judges who will issue injunctions in labor disputes."

## Penn. R. R. Despotism Outrages Workers' Rights

Samuel Rea, president of the Pennsylvania Railroad System, likens the Pennsylvania employe representation system to the election of candidates by political parties and describes it as a method to secure "peaceful settlement of all controversial questions."

N. P. Good, head of System Federation No. 90, American Federation of Labor, gives Rea this knockout in an article in the Railway Maintenance of Way Employes' Journal:

"President Rea fails to consider that our national election laws were made by those authorized by the people to do so, while the employes of the Pennsylvania railroad were required to vote, if they voted at all, under regulations established by company officials and a few political henchmen who had no authority under the transportation act and no mandate from the employes to create such laws.

"The so-called 'peaceful settlement of all controversial questions' which the Pennsylvania management alleges the 'employe representation' system secures are not approved by a majority of the employes and will not endure because he and his associates have utterly disregarded the constitutional and moral rights of all those who opposed them, and because they are endeavoring to mold public opinion in their favor through a campaign of misrepresentation."

## STEEL TRUST GARY "FRIEND OF LABOR"

The American Federation of Teachers' 1923 convention adopted an anti-12-hour-day resolution which condemned the "vicious and inhuman system employed by the steel trust dominated by Judge Gary" and urged the locals of the federation to create a public sentiment for the elimination of the "un-American, degrading and dehumanizing system."

In the course of time the federation's officials received a communication from F. R. Sites, secretary to Judge Gary, one paragraph which is surely worth preserving. It reads:

**"To characterize as 'vicious and inhuman the system employed' by the Steel Corporation is a great mistake. Those who have given study to the subject of industrial management recognize that under [illegible] sideration to the well being, comfort and happiness of its employes, and in developing cordial relations and happiness of its employes, and and hearty cooperation between the employes and the management."**

Judge Gary is the man who from the inception of the Steel Corporation established the policy of refusing to deal with the representatives of the democracies known as trade unions.

Judge Gary is the man who refused to recognize the right of the steel workers to organize effectively in trade unions for the protection of their standards of wages and hours.

Judge Gary is the man who has undertaken to maintain the slave owners' conception of human labor power as a commodity even after the statute law of the United States declared that it is not a commodity.

Judge Gary is the man who persistently fought the abolition of the 12-hour day and the 7-day week and who only yielded when the trade union movement had so mobilized public opinion against these monstrosities that further hostility to the shorter workday principle not only placed Judge Gary against the trade union movement but against the nation itself.

Judge Gary is the man who has persistently advocated a policy of practically unrestricted immigration under which his corporation was able to import hundreds of thousands of cheap alien workers to beat down and keep down American standards of wages and hours to the animal plane which obtains in southeastern Europe.

Judge Gary the friend of labor!

Well! Well!! Well!!!

## Usurped Power to Nullify Federal Law Must Be Taken From U. S. Supreme Court

"The decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States declaring the federal child labor law and the District of Columbia minimum wage law unconstitutional undid in hours the progress made by painful steps through decades for the protection of women and children," declares the International Steam Engineer, the official organ of the International Union of Steam and Operating Engineers, in an article condemning judicial supergovernment.

"There is no question but that these two laws were the will of the majority of the people.

"They were enacted by the Congress, the duly chosen government agent of the people, and were approved and enforced by the president, whom the people elected.

"Yet a group of five out of nine men, whom the people did not elect, have assumed the authority to throw out laws which the five do not consider constitutional.

"In both of these decisions it was merely a matter of opinion whether or not the laws were to be thrown out or be enforced, for in both cases a minority of justices approved of the laws, Chief Justice Taft read the dissenting opinion indorsing the minimum wage law.

**"Bear in mind also that this power of the supreme court to nullify the laws of Congress is self-assumed, built up, decision by decision during the past century, until today it overshadows the two branches of the government which are responsible to the people.**

"A distinct movement has been gathering headway for some years looking to the limitation of the powers of the supreme court.

"Sooner or later the people must curtail this supergovernment of the bench or else surrender to it. They must decide whether a fraction of the supreme

## Employer Group Insurance of Workers Designed to Injure Union Insurance

"Experience has proven the worth of a death benefit or insurance feature in maintaining organization in trade unions," declares the committee on constitution of the Cigar Makers' International Union of America in a statement to the members of the union recommending the adoption of an amendment to the constitution providing for the group insurance and re-insurance plan adopted by the union's 1923 convention.

"Unions that maintain a chain of benefits never disintegrate to their economic disadvantage in times of industrial depression as do those unions that have no benefit features," continues the committee.

"So well established is this fact—and no better proof of the value of a benefit system is necessary—that manufacturers' associations, railroad companies and large employers of labor generally are giving their employes absolutely free of charge group insurance, both life and sick.

"Of course, this company insurance is nullified when the worker leaves the employ of the company, and, furthermore, the only reason for its being given at all is to offset the benefit features of trade unions and to stifle the demand for improved working conditions demanded by the unions.

**"The whole program of group insurance as applied by large employers of labor is a deep-laid plot or conspiracy to undermine the activities of labor unions.**

"Our own union should now (and all other trade unions will sooner or later be compelled as a matter of self-preservation to do likewise) adopt some method of group insurance to counteract the so-called free benefit features that are now so generally a part of big business."

The committee points out that when the cigar makers' union established its death benefit system in 1887 the principle represented the "best thought on insurance at that time," which was the "era of fraternal and assessment insurance companies."

The experience of later years, however, has shown the inadequacy of the original death benefit system, due largely to the fact that the union has "provided no reserve fund upon which the interest would have taken care of the naturally increasing death rate with increasing age." The situation was developing to the point where a "prohibitive rate of dues" would lead to the "repudiation of the death benefit system entirely." This realization led the 1923 convention to adopt unanimously a group re-insurance plan under which the present rate of $1.51 per annum on each $100 of insurance carried will be much reduced.

## Industrial Democracy Necessary to Save America from Socialism

tive industrial democracy, in which the legislative authority in industrial matters is vested in an economic congress composed of representatives chosen by industrial groups, is necessary in the United States if we are to escape socialism, declares President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor in an interview published in the Washington Star.

"Since our form of government was created we have developed a tremendous industrial organization," declares President Gompers, "which has revolutionized society and produced conditions the founders of our republic knew nothing about and could not have foreseen.

**"The attempts of our political government to regulate this vast business machine can lead only to state socialism, and state socialism is repugnant to the American mind."**

According to President Gompers the alternative to this state socialism is representative industrial government from which politicians are barred and which shall be administered by the chosen representatives of the various groups constituting industry.

## Ladies' Garment Workers Establish Labor Bank

New York, Oct. 27.—The International Union Bank, organized by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, will open December 1, according to an official statement made by the union's committee on banking.

The bank is owned by the Ladies' Garment Workers' Union as a union, a number of other labor organizations, the locals of the garment workers, and individual members. The capital is $500,000, fully paid up. The stock is sold for $200 a share.

The bank is described as a "cooperative labor enterprise, and the large profits which the ordinary business bank distributes among its stockholders will go to our depositors, our unions, and our members."

Initial dividends are fixed at $8 per share per year. Additional profits in excess of the $8 "will be divided between the stockholders and depositors." Depositors will receive a fixed interest rate of 4 per cent on savings, but they "may figure on a larger return because a substantial part of the bank's profits will be divided among the depositors as extra dividends."

## Trade Union Government Depends on Discipline

New York, Oct. 27.—"It must be clearly understood that all our unions are in essence voluntary organizations," declares Justice, the official organ of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, in an editorial on the action of Local 9 of the Cloak Finishers and Tailors' Union of New York in rejecting the decision of the general executive board of the international union to the effect that union members must give up their membership in certain subversive organizations known as "educational leagues" or forfeit their standing in the local unions.

**"The real power of every union consists in the self-discipline imposed by the members," continues Justice. "A union is not a state, not a government which can use force to put into effect adopted laws. The strength of a labor union consists in the assumption by every member of a duty to carry out a certain line of conduct, and the collective will to abide by these rules constitutes the living force of the union.**

"When an individual member or a local mutinies against accepted decisions, regulations and laws, it strikes at the very foundation of the labor union's existence. In such an event the union cannot and must not be lenient. Its instinct for self-preservation demands from it vigilant enforcement of its basic laws. If today one local refuses to carry out a decision of the general executive board, what is to prevent another local and a third from following its example tomorrow?

"The immediate result would be the crumbling of the international union then of the international would be quickly followed by the breaking up of the locals and the wiping out of that magnificent trade union structure which has been built up at the cost of so much sacrifice during the last thirty years. There can therefore be no talk in this case of a mild and vacillating course. Firm and quick action on the part of the international is the only way of retaining its unity and existence as well as the saving of the very local in question."

## Preference for Ex-Service Men Unjust; Efficient Government Employees "Fired"

Washington, Oct. 27.—The navy department's administration of the executive order of the president of the United States instructing navy officials to give preference to persons having previous military service when it is decided to reduce the number of workers in naval establishments is working great injustice to employes without military service, according to President William H. Johnston of the International Association of Machinists.

"Men who have been employed in navy yards and arsenals all the way from 15 to 30 years have been laid off," declares Johnston, "and new men who have just recently been brought in but who have seen military service, although some of them had never been overseas, have been retained."

"Recently 300 machinists and other men who had been employed for 15 or 20 years were discharged from the Newport torpedo station and young boys who had been in the naval reserve, who had never left our coast at all, who had no ability as mechanics, were retained due to the preference policy and the president's executive order."

Johnston maintains that this sort of discrimination against efficient workers for the purpose of rewarding men for their military service is an unwise policy and leads to the elimination of the efficient men and the retention of the inefficient.

The 1923 convention of the metal trades department of the American Federation of Labor also opposed the discrimination against non-military-service workers by declaring that while all injured service men should be compensated by the nation, the compensation shall not be of such a nature "as will impair the peace time services of the nation."

The convention placed itself on record as "opposed to sweeping preferences in the matter of appointments or retention in the civil service being given any group of citizens such as now extends to veterans with military service."

## ELECTROTYPERS WIN NINE WAGE RAISE CONTRACTS

Omaha, Neb., Oct. 27.—Officials of the International Electrotypers and Stereotypers' union announce new wage scale contracts in nine jurisdictions carrying wage increases up to $3.

The successful unions are Cincinnati, New Orleans; Denver; Springfield, Ill.; Elmira and Niagara Falls, N. Y.; Worcester, Mass.; Memphis, Tenn.; and San Antonio, Tex.

The new rates for journeymen run from $6 to $7 a day and from $40 to $44.50 per week.

## BAKERY WORKERS' UNION PUTS UP STIFF FIGHT

Chicago, Ill., Oct. 27.—The Bakery and Confectionery Workers' International Union of America has waged 153 strikes during the past three years to protect bakery workers' wages and hours from the assaults on organized labor standards made by un-American employers.

The strikes affected 392 shops, 2,742 union members and cost the international union $89,344 in strike benefits.

Since 1909 the union has paid out $926,662 in sick and death benefits at an average monthly cost of slightly over 42 cents per member.

In 1893 the union had 5,000 members, 16,200 in 1903, 22,000 in 1913, and 27,969 in 1923.

## GREEDY COAL DEALERS GOUGE COAL CONSUMERS

Washington, Oct. 27.—Middlemen handling anthracite coal are engaged in the permanent business of gouging consumers, according to a report of the Federal Trade Commission.

In order to swell their normal profits to an exorbitant figure wholesalers make a practice of reconsigning shipments to other wholesalers, says the commission. This results in a pyramiding of unnecessary handling costs, which ultimately come out of the coal consumers' pockets.

Washington, Oct. 27.—Wholesalers in the coal industry have boosted profits 200 per cent during recent years, according to the final report of the U. S. Coal Commission. The commission recommends federal legislation to curb profiteers.

## Government Price Fixing Opposed by Farm Bureau

Chicago, Ill., Oct. 27.—Government price fixing of wheat holds no hope for the farmers, according to a statement on price fixing issued by officials of the American Farm Bureau Federation in controverting propaganda from certain sections demanding a guaranteed price based on cost of production plus a profit.

It would be impossible to fix a price that would be just to both high cost and low cost producers, says the statement. Moreover, a government guaranteed price for wheat would inevitably lead to government price fixing of other commodities. The end would be government price-making commissions in charge of production and distribution, which would be in effect a "kind of socialism."

Farm bureau officials prefer the so-called law of supply and demand as a price influence for farm commodities with the law effectively controlled by farm organizations assisted by government warehouses and government loans at low interest rates to enable the farmers to hold their products for reasonable prices and feed them out in an "orderly manner" to meet the requirements of the public.

## Government Abandons Stranded Immigrants

Ottawa, Can., Oct. 27.—One of the outstanding features of the 1923 Canadian Trades and Labor Congress was its straight-out denunciation of the heartless immigration policy of the Canadian government.

**"It has authoritatively stated that approximately 12,000 men have been induced to come to Canada for work in the western harvest fields, many of whom have been found physically unfit for such laborious work," declares the congress. "Numbers of these, being unable to secure employment under promised conditions, are already drifting into the western cities with the likelihood of their becoming public charges on these municipalities.**

"The Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, in convention assembled, protests against wholesale migration of this nature, undertaken without any preparation to ensure reasonable opportunity of employment during the coming winter months, and demands that the federal government accept the responsibility of returning these unemployed workers to their homes or provides them with means of sustenance until employment can be secured by them."

Organized labor contends that immigration officials are importing industrial workers under the guise of farm laborers for the benefit of manufacturers in their attempts to beat down the wages and hours standards of Canadian trade unionism.

## Crowell Publishing Co. Locks Out Union Men

Springfield, Ohio, Oct. 27.—Springfield Typographical union is putting up a stiff fight against the lockout of union men proclaimed by the Crowell publishing company and the Ralph Printing company.

Two union printers out of 26 concerned violated their union obligation and remained with the rats. The union summarily expelled them with a fine of $500 each.

The publications printed by the Crowell concern have a wide circulation. They include the American Magazine, Woman's Home Companion, Farm and Fireside, and the Mentor. Collier's Weekly is also owned by the Crowell company.

## SHOPMEN SUE PENN. R. R. FOR $15,000,000 DAMAGES

Chicago, Ill., Oct. 27.—The railway shopmen on strike against the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, about 60,000 in number, have brought suit against the company in the federal courts of Pennsylvania, to recover about $15,000,000 for underpayment in wages. The shopmen claim the wages are due them under decisions of the U. S. Railroad Labor Board, which the Pennsylvania refused to recognize and which the labor board claimed it did not have legal power to enforce.

The suit is brought by System Federation No. 90 of the Railway Employes' Department of the American Federation of Labor. The claim covers the period from July 1, 1921, to July 2, 1922, the date of the shopmen's strike.

Donald R. Richberg, counsel for the Railway Employes' Department of the American Federation of Labor; Henry T. Hunt, one of the original members of the Railroad Labor Board, and Morris Hilquit of New York City, are counsel for System Federation No. 90.

## PRINTERS LAND FIFTEEN WAGE RAISE AGREEMENTS

Indianapolis, Ind., Oct. 27.—Fifteen locals of the International Typographical Union have harvested new union shop agreements carrying wage increases running from $1.50 to $9 for hand men and operators in both newspaper and job offices, it is announced by officials of the union.

The local unions which have met with this success in raising the standard of their members are: Asheville, N. C.; Carbondale, Pa.; Fairmont, West Va.; Mason City and Boone, Iowa; Lima, Ohio; Bakersfield, San Bernardino, Watsonville and Salinas, Calif.; Binghamton and Niagara Falls, N. Y.; Peoria, Ill.; Green Bay, Wis.; Topeka, Kans., and the Philadelphia German printers' union.

The new wage rates per week for newspaper hand men and operators run from $37 to $50 for day work and from $43 to $53 for night work. Bakersfield, Calif., tops the list with the $50 and $53 rate.

For job hand men and operators the rates vary from $30 to $40.50. The wage increases do not take into consideration bonuses.

The new agreements carry the 44-hour week for book and job printers. For newspaper printers the week runs from 45 to 48 hours with the exception of the Philadelphia German printers' union, which has the five-day week.

## Organized Panama Canal Workers Demand Restoration of Free Rent, Light and Fuel

Balboa, Panama, Oct. 27.—The Panama Canal metal trades council is carrying on an active campaign for funds to make the fight for the restoration of free rent, light, fuel, sanitation and maintenance of quarters for Panama canal employes.

Since the early construction period of the canal the government furnished these things gratis. But in January, 1922, the president of the United States issued an executive order under which canal employes are charged for rent, dispensary and hospital services, garbage disposal, grass cutting and certain services in connection with quarters, such as janitor work, repairs, and painting.

Government employes maintain that the extra charges are a direct cut in pay of about $30 a month on the average.

Claiming that the Panama Canal act prohibits the president of the United States from issuing the executive order in question, organized labor of the canal zone took the question of the validity of the order into the courts. It is now before the supreme court of the United States. But regardless of how the supreme court rules, the case must be finally settled by congress.

The purpose of the fund being raised by the metal trades council is to defray the necessary expenses in connection with the legislation sought.

## $5 WAGE RAISE REFUSED; PRINTERS GO ON STRIKE

Asheville, N. C., Oct. 27.—The strike of the Asheville local of the International Typographical Union against Asheville's two daily papers, the Citizen and the Times, is being vigorously prosecuted.

The union asked for a new agreement carrying an increase of $5 per week for newspaper night work and $3.17 per week for day work, with the 48-hour week. The newspaper owners not only refused to pay the new scale but also refused to submit the matter to arbitration, admitting that they feared the union would win the decision.

Officials of the union claim that wage scales in cities comparable with Asheville so far as cost of living is concerned are from $5 to $18 higher than here.

The newspaper owners wanted a 5-year contract with no wage increase.

## Electrical Workers' Union Provides Life Insurance at Low Cost

Washington, Oct. 27.—The Electrical Workers' Benefit Association of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers collected in dues $524,899 and paid out in death benefits $225,600 from January, 1922, to July, 1923, according to the report of the trustees published in the Journal of Electrical Workers and Operators, the official organ of the brotherhood.

The benefit association was organized in January, 1922, with a nest egg of $190,000 transferred from the brotherhood. For the period covered by the report the total income amounts to $755,645, and total expenses $277,765. There is a balance on hand in cash and invested funds of $477,879.

The brotherhood maintained a benefit feature for 11 years prior to the organization of the benefit association in 1922. Under the old organization the maximum benefit was $300. Under the association the maximum has been raised to $1,000 after five years' continuous good standing in the brotherhood. During the 11 years $482,445 was paid out for 2,626 deaths, with an average of 3.34 deaths per 1,000 members per year.

The death records of the brotherhood show that approximately one-third of the deaths are caused by the hazards of the electrical workers' occupation or by violent means.

In a comparison of the cost of management of the brotherhood's benefit association with five mutual and fraternal orders with death insurance reveals that the brotherhood heads the list with a management cost of but 58 cents per member, while in the five orders the per capita cost varies from $3.63 to $5.08.

## RURAL SCHOOLS LACK TRAINED TEACHERS

Washington, Oct. 27.—"More than 95 per cent of the well-trained teachers are employed to teach the children living in towns, cities, and consolidated districts," declares the U. S. bureau of education, "while the 4,500,000 children who live on farms and attend one-teacher rural schools have the services of less than 5 per cent of the well-trained teachers."